

**MAYOR/COMMISSION WORK SESSION**

**August 4, 2008**

**Commission Chambers – 10:08 a.m.**

**Present: Mayor Frankel, Commissioners Douglas, Mitchell [arrived at 10:10 a.m.], Moss [left at 12:19 p.m.], Muoio and Robinson Jr., City Administrator Mitchell, City Attorney McKenna and City Clerk Kauthen.**

<b>16.</b>	<b><u>Other</u> – The Mayor stated that the proposed intercoastal islands project could be maintained by the County. Commissioner Moss iterated the importance of the City controlling the project. Ms. Goldberg stated that the County and the State are in charge of the project and do not wish to have an interlocal agreement with the City.</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b><u>City Center Room Naming Application</u> – Mr. Frost stated that [a] the Nominating Committee has come up with their recommendations for an application form; [b] the Nominating Committee will do the initial screening and research of applications as they come in; [c] once the Nominating Committee has approved the applications, the application will go to the Commissioners; [d] it was the consensus of the Nominating Committee to name rooms after individuals and not corporations; and [e] all the rooms are not expected to be named initially. Commissioner Moss inquired if the rooms could be names after individuals or corporations. The Mayor [a] suggested having a list of names with descriptions of the rooms on the application forms; and [b] expressed her opinion that the names should not be limited in any way. Commissioner Mitchell suggested [a] only considering names of people that are deceased; and [b] finding out the criteria that Tallahassee used to name rooms. It was the consensus of the Commission to accept applications from both individuals and groups.</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b><u>Update on Building Size, Scale and Mass Regulations</u> – Historic Preservation Planner Mittner [a] provided an update on the progress of Winters and Company, a consultant firm, who is looking at the regulations of building size, scale and mass for the historic districts; [b] stated the recommendations of the consultants along</b>

	<p>with the Advisory Committee and the Historic Preservation Board was to do a two part approach: (1) to revise the design guidelines, identify the historic districts and describe the characteristics, and (2) look into changing some of the zoning standards; [c] stated that there will be a community meeting on October 14, 2008; [d] stated that the realtors and builders associations are positive over the possible changes; and [e] stated that the issue would be brought in front of the Historic preservation Board in November, 2008; and [f] stated that the issue would be brought forth in front of the Commission in December, 2008.</p>
5. & 7.	<p><u>Forest Hill High School/West Palm Beach Golf Course and Forest Hill Traffic Pattern Plan</u> – Senior Planner Roach [a] spoke of how the City has been dealing with the traffic control, circulation of traffic within the school, and the parking concerns of the neighborhood; [b] stated that the parking concerns have been significantly reduced this year; and [c] stated that the school recently acquired land which is zoned for single family homes. Parking Systems Administrator Olley spoke of effectiveness of the residential parking program. Traffic Engineer Collins [a] stated that the main problem is the pick-up and drop-off between Forest Hill Boulevard and the golf course on Parker Avenue; [b] presented a plan to change the traffic pattern which would alleviate the traffic problems; [c] explained the infrastructure of the proposed plan; [d] stated that the plan has been approved by the neighborhood; [e] stated that the proposed plan could be implemented by the fall; and [f] stated he would work with Mr. Sanches, Chief of Facilities Management for the School District of Palm Beach County, to see how much the School Board would be willing to contribute to the proposed plan. Commissioner Moss stated that the real problem is parents blocking homes along Maddock Street. Mr. Sanches, Chief of Facilities Management for the School District of Palm Beach County, stated that the School Board would be willing to [a] use the School Board properties on the east of Parker Avenue to alleviate the traffic problems; and [b] contribute financially to the road improvement costs. Commissioner Mitchell [a] suggested other traffic configurations to alleviate parent traffic going through the</p>

	<p>neighborhood; [b] stated that the parking lot that the City allowed the school to use is hardly ever used; and [c] suggested incorporating the unused parking lot into the Golf Course Master Plan. The Mayor [a] stated that the proposed plan should be implemented; [b] iterated the importance of giving flyers to the parents of the school before the road changes go into effect; [c] stated that the Golf Course Master Plan should look at incorporating the unused parking lot; and [d] directed Traffic Engineer Collins to look into the cost of the proposed plan and come back with an estimate.</p>
3.	<p><u>Discussion Re: 4000 Square Feet Lease Space at City Center</u> – Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister [a] spoke of the schedule time-line needed in order for the lease space to open at the same time as the new City Center; [b] presented different lease term possibilities; and [c] inquired if the Commission had certain types of businesses in mind for the space. Commissioner Moss stated he would prefer a government related entity in the space. Commissioner Muoio and Mitchell stated they would rather see a business that is not government related. Commissioner Douglas iterated the importance of remaining flexible and view each application as it comes in. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to see a business with international flavor in the space. The Mayor iterated the importance of having a business in the space that has the same hours of operation as the City Center.</p>
4.	<p><u>TOD Update</u> – Redevelopment Manager Briesemeister gave an update on the TOD district. Commissioner Moss stated that historically the County does not consider this issue to be a priority and may agree to have the CRA do the RFP.</p>
6.	<p><u>Update on the Green Committee</u> – Commissioner Moss stated he would like the Committee to look at requiring that all surface parking lots be made out of a pervious surface material. The Mayor stated that this issue should be discussed at a workshop in August or September, 2008.</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p><b><u>User Fees at Gaines Park</u></b> – Commissioner Robinson [a] spoke of an incident where a residents son was not allowed to use the Gaines Park gym without paying a fee; [b] stated he would be willing to revisit the fees charged for using of the City’s gyms; and [c] stated that he would prefer for youths to be in the gyms than on the streets. Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Rockwell stated that [a] there is a \$1 fee to use the City’s interior gyms; [b] the City does not turn children away from playing in the interior gyms; and [c] the resident’s son was over eighteen years old. The Mayor [a] directed Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Rockwell to review the fees; and [b] expressed her concern over charging people to use the City’s pools. Commissioner Moss iterated the importance of knowing the cost of running the gym as well as the income generated. Commissioner Mitchell expressed her concern that the skate park is not being utilized due to the fees being charged.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b><u>Railroad Avenue – Code Enforcement</u></b> – Commissioner Douglas [a] stated that two businesses are being cited for using properties for storage purposes across from Railroad Avenue; and [b] expressed her opinion that the land zoning should be changed to allow these businesses to use this land. Planning Director Wu [a] stated an analysis was done on the road on July 8, 2008; [b] stated that the land use does not allow for industrial use and zoning does not allow for storage; [c] expressed his concern over the proximity of the property to Brelsford Park neighborhood; and [d] stated that meetings with the neighborhood have indicated that they wish for the area to be maintained as residential. Code Compliance Manager Hiteshew explained the offences related to the businesses. Commissioner Moss inquired if the monetary value of the land would increase if the zoning was to change. The Mayor stated that [a] if the zoning was to change you would have single family homes next to industrial land; [b] a solution should be found to allow the businesses to stay in their current location; [c] a neighborhood meeting should be held over this issue; and [d] the Special Magistrate should be asked to continue this issue until a solution is found. City Urban Designer Aponte [a] stated that the plan for the area is for it to be residential with some areas of commercial use; [b]</p>

	<p>stated that industrial use should not be encouraged in this area; and [c] suggested having an amortization period to allow the businesses to continue having storage space. Commissioner Mitchell [a] expressed the need to come up with a solution which allows the businesses to be in compliance; and [b] suggested that truck traffic be reduced. City Attorney McKenna [a] suggested creating a program that would allow the businesses to operate without destroying the land use program; and [b] suggested that businesses could be required to get a Class A Special use Permit.</p>
10.	<p><b><u>Gallon Trash Can</u></b> – Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that the western communities had received their 95 gallon trash cans; and [b] expressed her concern that the trash cans may be too large to fit in some people’s garages. Director of Public Works Alford [a] explained why the City chose to give the residents large trash cans; [b] stated that smaller trash cans should be discouraged; and [c] stated that smaller trash cans can be provided for those people who cannot use the larger trash cans. Commissioner Moss [a] inquired when the one armed trash collection program would be implemented in the costal communities of the City; and [b] iterated the importance of informing residents that trash not placed inside of the trash can will not be picked-up. Utilities O&amp;M Superintendent Thomas stated that a lot of the excess rubbish could be reduced if more people recycled. The Mayor stated that the Public Information Officers should be informed so that they can inform residents that they cannot put excess rubbish next to their trash cans.</p>
11.	<p><b><u>Resolution Urging Florida Legislature to Provide Fair Share Funding</u></b> – Commissioner Robinson inquired as to how the Commissioners felt about the issue. It was the consensus of the commission to vote in favor of the issue.</p>
12.	<p><b><u>Norton Park Place Party of Interest Letter</u></b> – City Attorney McKenna stated that Mr. Schiller, representing Norton Park Place would like to come before the Commissioners to present expert testimony and have the right to cross examine people.</p>

	<p>Commissioner Mitchell [a] expressed her opinion that experts should be allowed more than three minutes; and [b] stated that a lot of issues can not be addressed in three minutes. Commissioner Moss stated that [a] in the past the commission has allowed someone to speak on behalf of other people, as long as those people do not speak as well; and [b] he was not comfortable with allowing people from the audience to cross-examine other people. The Mayor stated that [a] expert witnesses would be allowed more than three minutes; [b] cross examination would not be allowed; and [c] Mr. Schiller would be allowed to give Commissioners questions to ask the experts.</p>
13.	<p><u>Ordinance Number 3944-06 Section 72-128: Debris Disposal Fee</u> – Commissioner Muoio [a] stated that she had received correspondence from roofing contractors who are being charged to haul debris that they themselves are hauling; and [b] suggested that Director of Public Works Alford look into the issue. Director of Public Works Alford explained why the ordinance was enacted. Commissioner Douglas inquired why the ordinance did not go into effect immediately. It was the consensus of the commission to revisit the issue in a workshop format.</p>
14.	<p><u>Notable Practices of Florida County, Cities and Schools Report</u> – Commissioner Mitchell [a] suggested, to ensure independent and fiscal program accountability and information, the Commission should have an independent office created; and [b] suggested implementing cracking down on people who have homesteads that are not entitled to them. Commissioner Muoio stated that it is the Internal Audit Department’s job to provide independent and fiscal program accountability and information.</p>
15.	<p><u>Mayor’s Matters</u> – This item was not discussed.</p>
16.	<p><u>Other [Continued]</u> – Commissioner Douglas [a] inquired when the Construction Services report would be ready; [b] stated that she has received a lot of complaints about the Construction Services Department; and [c] stated that the Riverwalk community has been having problems obtaining permits for its front gate and removal of</p>

	<p>trees. City Administrator Mitchell stated that the Construction Services report should be ready within the next two to three weeks. Planning Director Wu explained the issue with the trees. The Mayor Directed City Administrator Mitchell to look into the issues at Riverwalk.</p> <p>Commissioner Mitchell stated that Ballet Florida is interested in performing three free performances a year for the City, if the City will pay for moving their stage.</p> <p>Commissioner Robinson inquired into [a] having a City Attorney on the Nuisance Abatement Board; and [b] the removal of eight Australian Pines in the Sandpiper neighborhood. City Attorney McKenna stated she would bring an ordinance forward to have a City Attorney on the Nuisance Abatement Board. The Mayor stated that City Administrator Mitchell should speak to her regarding the Australian Pines.</p>
17.	<u>Adjournment</u> – 12:42 p.m.